NUMB. CCCLXV.

The SPECTATOR.

Vere magis, quia vere calor redit oſſibus— Virg.

Tueſday, April 29. 1712.

THE Author of the *Menagiana* acquaints us, that diſcourſing one Day with ſeveral Ladies of Quality about the Effects of the Month of *May*, which infuſes a kindly Warmth into the Earth, and all its Inhabitants; the Marchioneſs of *S*——who was one of the Company, told him that *Tho' ſhe would promiſe to be Chaſte in every Month beſides, ſhe could not engage for her ſelf in* May. As the beginning therefore of this Month is now very near, I deſign this Paper for a Caveat to the fair Sex, and publiſh it before *April* is quite out, that if any of them ſhould be caught tripping, they may not pretend they had not timely Notice.

I am induced to this, being perſwaded the abovementioned Obſervation is as well calculated for our Climate as for that of *France*, and that ſome of our *Britiſh* Ladies are of the ſame Conſtitution with the *French* Marchioneſs.

I ſhall leave it among Phyſicians to determine what may be the Cauſe of ſuch an Anniverſary Inclination, whether or no it is that the Spirits after having been as it were frozen and congealed by Winter, are now turned looſe, and ſet a rambling; or that the gay proſpects of Fields and Meadows, with the courtſhip of the Birds in every Buſh, naturally unbend the Mind, and ſoften it to Pleaſure. Or that, as ſome have imagin'd, a Woman is prompted by a kind of Inſtinct to throw her ſelf on a Bed of Flowers, and not to let thoſe beautiful Couches which Nature has provided lie uſeleſs. However it be, the effects of this Month on the lower part of the Sex, who act without diſguiſe, is very viſible. It is at this time that we ſee the young Wenches in a Country Pariſh dancing round a *May-pole*, which one of our learned Antiquaries ſuppoſes to be a Reflick of a certain Pagan Worſhip that I do not think fit to mention.

It is likewiſe on the firſt Day of this Month that we ſee the ruddy Milk-Maid exerting her ſelf in a moſt ſprightly manner under a Pyramid of Silver Tankards, and like the Virgin *Tarpeia* oppreſs'd by the coſtly Ornaments which her Benefactors lay upon her.

I need not mention the Ceremony of the Green Gown, which is alſo peculiar to this gay Seaſon.

The ſame periodical Love-fit ſpreads thro' the whole Sex, as Mr. *Dryden* well obſerves in his Deſcription of this merry Month.

For thee, ſweet Month, the Groves green Liv'ries wear,
If not the firſt, the faireſt of the Year;
For thee the Graces lead the dancing Hours,
And Nature's ready Pencil paints the Flow'rs.
The ſprightly May *commands our Youth to keep*
The Vigils of her Night, and breaks their Sleep;
Each gentle Breaſt with kindly Warmth ſhe moves,
Inſpires new Flames, revives extinguiſh'd Loves.

Accordingly among the Works of the great Maſters in Painting, who have drawn this genial Seaſon of the Year, we often obſerve *Cupids* confuſedly with *Zephirs*, flying up and down promiſcuouſly in ſeveral parts of the Picture. I cannot but add from my own Experience, that about this time of the Year Love-Letters come up to me in great numbers from all Quarters of the Nation.

I receiv'd an Epiſtle in particular by the laſt Poſt from a *Yorkſhire* Gentleman, who makes heavy Complaints of one *Zelinda*, whom it ſeems he has courted unſucceſsfully theſe three Years paſt. He tells me that he deſigns to try her this *May*, and if he does not carry his point, he will never think of her more.

Having thus fairly admoniſhed the Female Sex, and laid before them the Dangers they are expoſed to in this Critical Month, I ſhall in the next place lay down ſome Rules and Directions for their better avoiding thoſe Calentures, which are ſo very frequent in this Seaſon.

In the firſt place, I would adviſe them never to venture abroad in the Fields, but in the Company of a Parent, a Guardian, or ſome other ſober diſcreet Perſon. I have before ſhewn how apt they are to trip in a Flowry Meadow, and ſhall further obſerve to them, that *Proſerpine* was out a *Maying*, when ſhe met with that fatal Adventure, to which *Milton* alludes when he mentions

——————*That fair Field*
Of Enna, *where* Proſerpine *gathering flowers*
Her ſelf a fairer flower by gloomy Dis
Was gathered——————

Since I am got into Quotations, I ſhall conclude this Head with *Virgil's* Advice to young People, while they are gathering wild Strawberies and Noſegays, that they ſhould have a care of the *Snake in the Graſs*.

In the ſecond place I cannot but approve thoſe Preſcriptions, which our Aſtrological Phyſicians give in their Almanacks for this Month; ſuch as are *a Spare and Simple Ditt, with the moderate uſe of Phlebotomy.*

Under this Head of Abſtinence, I ſhall alſo adviſe my fair Readers, to be in a particular manner careful how they meddle with Romances, Chocolate, Novels, and the like Inflamers; which I look upon as very dangerous to be made uſe of during this great Carnival of Nature.

As I have often declared, that I have nothing more at Heart than the Honour of my dear Country-Women, I would beg them to conſider, whenever their Reſolutions begin to fail them, that there are but one and thirty Days of this ſoft Seaſon, and that if they can but weather out this one Month, the reſt of the Year will be eaſie to them. As for that part of the Fair Sex, who ſtay in Town, I would adviſe them to be particularly cautious how they give themſelves up to their moſt innocent Entertainments. If they cannot forbear the Play-houſe, I would recommend *Tragedy* to them, rather than *Comedy*; and ſhould think the *Puppet-ſhow* much ſafer for them than the *Opera*, all the while the Sun is in *Gemini*.

The Reader will obſerve, that this Paper is written for the uſe of thoſe Ladies who think it worth while to war againſt Nature in the Cauſe of Honour. As for that abandoned Crew, who do not think Virtue worth contending for, but give up their Reputation at the firſt Summons, ſuch Warnings and Premonitions are thrown away upon them. A Proſtitute is the ſame eaſie Creature in all Months of the Year, and makes no difference between *May* and *December*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Not Acted this Seaſon.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Perſons of Quality.

For the Benefit of Mr. Johnſon.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Tueſday, the 29th Day of April, will be preſented, That Celebrated Comedy call'd, Volpone: Or, the Fox. Written by the Famous Ben. Johnſon. The part of the Fox by Mr. Powell, Mosca by Mr. Wilks, Old Corbaccio by Mr. Johnſon. And all the other Parts to the beſt Advantage. With Entertainments of Dancing proper to the Play. By Mr. Prince, Mrs. Bickwell, and others. By her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

For the Benefit of Mrs. Barbier.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, to morrow being Wedneſday the 30th of April, will be preſented an Opera called Antiochus. The Pit and Boxes to be put together: And no body will be admitted without Tickets; which will be delivered out at the Theatre, at Mrs. White's Chocolate houſe, and at St. James's Coffee houſe this Day and to morrow, at half a Guinea each. To begin exactly at ſix. By her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes. And on Saturday next will be performed a new Opera called Hercules.

☞ Whereas there was lately accidentally diſcovered by an Husbandman at Stunſfield near Woodſtock in Oxfordſhire, (a large Pavement of rich Moſaick Work of the Ancient Romans, which is adorn'd with ſeveral Figures alluding to Mirth and Concord, in particular that of Bacchus ſeated on a Panther.) This is to give Notice, that an exact Delineation of the ſame is Engraven and Imprinted on a large Elephant Sheet of Paper; which are to be Sold at Mr. Charles Lillie's, Perfumer, at the corner of Beauford Buildings in the Strand, at 1s. N. B. There are to be had at the ſame place one Guinea each on a ſuperfine Atlas Paper, ſome painted with the ſame variety of Colours that the ſaid Pavement is beautified with; this Piece of Antiquity is eſteemed by the Learned to be the moſt conſiderable ever found in Britain.

☞ An extraordinary Collection of Original Pictures by the moſt celebrated Italian Maſters, viz. Corregio, Titian, Paulo Veroneſe, Julio Romano, Tintoret, Palma, Baſſan, Carracci, Michael Ang. Bataglia, Borgognone, Franceſco Bologneſe, and others, will be ſold by Auction on Thurſday the 8th of May next, at Mr. Peitier's next Houſe to the Wheatſheaf, in Henrietta-ſtreet, Covent-Garden; where Catalogues may be had, and at Mr. Briſſan's at the two Flower pots in Sommerſet Yard. The Pictures may be ſeen on Tueſday and Wedneſday before the Sale.

Whereas Mr. Van Noſt's Collection of Figures and Vaſes was laſt Week expoſed to Sale, and ſome part of the ſame are unſold. This is to inform the Curious, that there are moſt noble Figures and Vaſes for Gardens, curious Antique Heads proper to adorn Libraries, to be ſold under the Prime Coſt, Mrs. Van Noſt being reſolved to diſpoſe of the whole; and are to be ſeen at his late dwelling Houſe in Hide Park Road, near the Queen's Mead Houſe, where Attendance is given.

To be Sold by Auction, on Wedneſday the 30th of this Inſtant April, at 11 a Clock, in an Apartment in the Thatched Houſe Tavern in S. James-ſtreet by St. James's houſe, the Houſhold Goods and a fine Collection of Original Pictures, by very great Maſters, of a Gentleman who hath lately left off Housekeeping, viz. two Rich Gilt Damaſk Beds, other Beds and Bedding, fine Indian Cabinet, a Six-leaf'd India Screen, fine Tapeſtry Hangings and Carpets, Rich eaſy Chairs and other Chairs, fine China, and ſome Kitchin Goods. To be ſeen this Day, and the Pictures to be ſold the next Day after the Goods, being Thurſday the laſt of May. Catalogues to be had at the Houſe.

This Day is Publiſhed,

The Iliad of Homer, with Notes by Madam Dacier, Vol. the 2d. The 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th Books tranſlated by Mr. Ozell, the 7th Book by Timothy and the 9th Book by Mr. Broome of St. John's Colledge in Cambridge. Printed on a fine Paper Letter, and illuſtrated with Copper Plates, done by the beſt Gravers from the Paris Plates deſigned by Chapelle. Printed for Bernard Lintot at the Croſs Keys between the two Temple Gates in Fleetſtreet: Where may be had the 1ſt Vol. Note, the remaining Books of the Iliad are done by Mr. Broome and Mr. Timothy.

To be Sold, the Manors of Southcave and Flaxfleet in Southcave, in the Eaſt-Riding of York, amounting to upwards of 400l. per Annum. Enquire of Mr. John Greenwood, Attorney in Wood-ſtreet London, or Mr. Fran. Langley in York.

Four Miles beyond Epping, on the borders of Hertfordſhire, where the Roads are good, and the Soil healthful, is to be Let, either Furniſhed or Unfurniſhed, a Gentleman's Seat very pleaſantly ſituated, being a very convenient Dwelling Houſe of ſeven Rooms on a Floor, with Garden and Orchards well planted with Fruit; Stables, Coach-houſes, and other Out-houſes, Fiſh ponds, &c. Enquire of Mr Joſeph Gaywood, Goldſmith, at the Dial in the Strand, near the Savoy Gate, or of Mr. Nelſon, over againſt the Church in the Old Jewry near Cheapſide.

A Houſe in Little Rider-ſtreet at St. James's, held by Leaſe of which 3 Years and a half are yet unexpired, with a Clauſe of Renewal without fine for 7 Years longer, is to be diſpoſed of for the ſaid Term, as it is furniſhed or without the Furniture. Enquire of Mr. Goſlin, Barber in the ſame Street, or at Mr. Goodiers. Upholſterers in Charles ſtreet near St. James's Square. It may be ſeen every Day in the Afternoon.

For SALE by the CANDLE,

At Lloyd's Coffee houſe in Lombard-ſtreet to morrow the 30th Inſtant, at 4 in the Afternoon, 30 Puncheons and Pipes of excellent Conic and Bourdeaux Brandy, neat and of the true flavour, and full proof, being taken Prize by a Guernzey Privateer and juſt Landed, lying in a Cellar at Sumner's Key, in the Gateway near Billingſgate, and are to be taſted this Day and to morrow 'till the Hour of Sale. Catalogues to be had at the Cellar, and at the place of Sale.

In George-ſtreet in York Buildings in the Strand, the third Houſe on the Right Hand, Number 3 being over the Door, may be had Many Line upon Plate and Jewels, at reaſonable Rates.

There is to be Sold a Cabinet of a moſt curious Collection of Shells, and other Natural Rarities, by J. Mayer at his Coffee-houſe in King-ſtreet near Bloomſbury Square, at reaſonable Rates.

To be Lett, ſeventeen Miles from London, and within three Miles of St. Albans near Weſtchester Road, a very fine Seat, (the Houſe ready furniſhed) with Gardens, Fiſh-ponds, Dove-houſe, Coach houſes, Stables, Brew houſe, and all other Conveniencies fit for a Perſon of Quality, as pleaſant Walks, Plantations, &c. Enquire of Mr. Collyer, at his Houſe in Blue-cross-ſtreet near Leiceſter-fields.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in, as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.